

**CALLING ALL NATURALISTS AND NATURALIST WANNA-BEs to
"WEDNESDAYS in the WILD"**

Natural History Talks/Workshops/Field Trips 1-3p.m. or As Noted

APRIL – JUNE 2016

- Apr 6th 1-3pm Exploring the Unique Features of the Big Pine Valley at Crow's Grove ----- outdoor pgm—NICHES/CG**
Join **NICHES Stewardship Manager Bob Easter** for a hike through NICHES' new Crow's Grove Nature Preserve in Warren County near Big Pine Creek. The property features a short loop trail that winds through a population of native glacial remnant white pine overlooking a sandstone canyon carved by glacial meltwaters. (There will be an opportunity to walk the creek bed through the canyon: bring your waterproof footwear if interested.)
- Apr 13th 1-3pm When Good Plants Go Bad: Mechanisms and Effects of Invasion ----- indoor pgm—LNC**
Mike Jenkins (Associate Professor of Forest Ecology for Purdue's Dept. of Forestry and Natural Resources) offers a brief history of invasive plants, describes how non-native plants can invade our local environments, and explains why it matters.
- Apr 20th 1-3pm WILD EDIBLES - Talk, Walk, Eat! -- Meet at far east end parking lot. No park fee at this time - outdoor pgm—STPK**
Springtime welcomes an array of wildflowers that provide nutritional and health benefits. Join **Interpretive Naturalist Angie Manuel** on this walk to discover the edible and medicinal plants hiding in our woodlands - we'll even snack on a few!
- Apr 27th 1-3pm Field Guides 101: Putting a Name with those Wildflower Faces - NOTE APR 27th PGM #1 - indoor/outdoor—LNC**
Mary Cutler (Tippecanoe County Naturalist) will shed some light on the complexities of choosing a field guide, and walk participants through the use of Newcomb's Wildflower Guide (easily mastered by non-botanists). We'll use our guides in the field to ID spring flowers, while learning about the plants. Bring your Newcomb's guide, if possible, or borrow or purchase one at pgm (at discounted price of \$15 courtesy of Von's Book Store!).
- Apr 27th 7-9pm Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service -- NOTE APR 27th PGM #2 --- indoor pgm—LNC**
Dan Shepardson (Purdue Prof. of Curriculum & Instruction/Earth, Atmospheric & Planetary Sciences) and Purdue environmental education students will share the history of the National Park Service and virtually explore several of our national parks, highlighting the diversity and conservation challenges of these treasured lands.
- May 4th 1-3pm Spring Warblers & Other Migrants ----- Binoculars available if needed ----- indoor/outdoor pgm—LNC**
Susan Ulrich (avid birder & naturalist) gives an indoor talk about migration and the birds that are coming through our area, and then leads an outdoor bird walk at Celery Bog Nature Area.
- May 11th 1-3pm Moyer Gould Woods Wildflower Hike -- CARPOOL leaves Battle Ground 12:30pm -- outdoor pgm—NICHES/MGW**
Join **NICHES stewardship manager Brad Weigel** for this hike in Carroll County along the Tippecanoe River. Spring wildflowers should be in full display and a side trip to a hidden cave will add some adventure to the hike. Brad will also discuss work NICHES has done at Moyer and will show us the site of a recent prescribed burn on the property.
- May 18th 1-3pm Wabash River Water Quality Update ----- indoor/outdoor pgm—SKATE**
Wabash River Enhancement Corp (WREC) Executive Director Stan Lambert will review and update WREC's activities and plans for along the river and **WREC Director of Watershed Projects Sara Peel** will share information on how the water quality in the Wabash River has changed over the years. We will then walk to the river, where **Jay Beugly (Aquatics Ecology Specialist in the Purdue Forestry & Natural Resources Dept)** will show and talk about the wide variety of the fish that he just collected from the Wabash.
- May 25th 8-10pm Attracting & Collecting Insects at Night ----- Bring FLASHLIGHT ----- outdoor pgm—WNC**
As the summer sun sets, many insects emerge that are often not noticed during the day. **Jeff Holland (Associate Professor, Purdue Landscape Ecology Lab)** will first introduce selected methods of attracting & collecting insects at night and then give participants a chance to try out these methods near the banks of Burnett Creek!
- Jun 1st 1-3pm Up-close Bird ID using Mist Nets ----- outdoor pgm—WNC**
Amanda Beheler (avian ecologist with a variety of mist netting experience)& Brian Beheler (Purdue forester/bird enthusiast) will demonstrate the use of mist nets and identify the birds that come to the nets during this program. A wonderful opportunity to get an up-close look at our local birds!
- Jun 8th 1-3pm Geocaching: Where YOU are the Search Engine! ----- indoor/outdoor pgm—LNC**
Who doesn't like a treasure hunt? Add technology and you've got Geocaching: a family-friendly way to get tech-obsessed loved ones into the great outdoors. **Karen Wiggins (Indiana Master Naturalist)** will provide tips on getting started, then lead everyone outside to give it a try. Bring your smartphone and/or handheld GPS device, if you have one.
- Jun 15th 1-3pm Geology of Prophetstown St Park AND Gravel Pit Tour -Meet at Visitor Center. \$2 pgm fee- outdoor pgm—STPK**
Angie Manuel (Park Interpretive Naturalist) and **Sean Owens (US Aggregates Plant Manager)** will co-present this program in which we are taken on a vehicle tour of the US Aggregates Gravel Pit. Program is limited to 20 people, so **pre-registration is required: call 765-320-0503 to register.**
- Jun 22nd 1-3pm Exploring Indian Creek Basin -- CARPOOL leaves LNC at 12:30pm ~ Bring BOOTS! -- outdoor pgm—NICHES/ICB**
Join **Brooke Criswell (NICHES Education & Outreach Coordinator)** on a walk at this NICHES property in Tippecanoe County to explore the floodplain property, discuss restoration of the habitat, along with plant and animal species of the habitats included (vernal pool, woodland, wet meadow). Encourage muck boots since the property is generally wet.
- Jun 29th 1-3pm Stream Critters ----- Bring BOOTS! ----- indoor/outdoor pgm—BEEC**
Explore Burnett Creek and find out who lives there! Program led by **Tippecanoe County Naturalist Mary Cutler.**

LOCATIONS of these FREE PROGRAMS (unless otherwise noted) which are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

BEEC (Brier Environmental Educ Ctr): In Battle Ground, turn by small sign on south side of Prophet St near its intersection with N. 9th St.
LNC (Lilly Nature Center/Celery Bog Nature Area): In West Lafayette, on north side of Lindberg Rd, between Northwestern and McCormick.
NICHES/CG (Crow's Grove): Meet at 1pm in property parking lot (directions at www.nicheslandtrust.org) OR 12:15pm at LNC to **CARPOOL.**
NICHES/ICB (Indian Creek Basin): Meet 1pm in property parking lot (directions at www.nicheslandtrust.org) OR 12:30pm at LNC to **CARPOOL.**
NICHES/MGW (Moyer Gould Woods): Meet at 1pm in property parking lot (directions at www.nicheslandtrust.org) OR 12:30 at WNC to **CARPOOL.**
SKATE (Riverside Skate Center/Tapawingo Pk): Located at 100 Tapawingo Dr North, West Lafayette. Skate Center parking lot is off Brown Street.
STPK (Prophetstown State Pk): Enter the park via Swisher Rd (off North Ninth St, just south of Battle Ground). Meeting place/cost listed with pgm info.
WNC (Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center): In Battle Ground, at the end of the Battlefield Monument parking lot off N. 9th St.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or TO HELP WITH PLANNING, contact:

**Mary Cutler 765-567-2993; Dan Dunten 765-775-5172; Joan Mohr Samuels 765-567-7023, mohrsamuels@comcast.net
SPONSORED BY**

**Mary Cutler, Naturalist, Tippecanoe County Park & Rec Dept. — Sycamore Audubon Society — NICHES Land Trust
Dan Dunten, Stewardship Director, West Lafayette Parks & Rec Dept. — West Central Chapter of INPAWS**